

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 24, 2017

The Honorable John McCain
Chairman
Senate Committee on Armed Services
Russell Senate Building, Room 228
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman
House Committee on Armed Services
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Armed Services
Russell Senate Building, Room 228
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Committee on Armed Services
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen McCain and Thornberry and Ranking Members Reed and Smith:

We write to express our strong support for the Congressionally-Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) at the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD).

Since 1992, the CDMRP has strengthened and transformed healthcare for service members and the American public through innovative and impactful biomedical research. Between 1992 and 2017, Congress has, on a bipartisan basis, provided the CDMRP with \$11.9 billion in funding to fill military-relevant research gaps by supporting high impact, high risk, and high gain projects that other agencies and private investors may be unwilling to fund.

CDMRP funding has resulted in important medical breakthroughs that have improved and enhanced the quality of life for our service members, including groundbreaking technological advancements in prosthetics and transplantations for combat-wounded veterans. In addition, CDMRP research has saved countless lives through the discovery of new treatments and cures to fight cancer and debilitating neurological diseases.

Earlier this year, in response to strong bipartisan expression in support for these programs, the House Committee on Appropriations included a significant investment in the CDMRP in the fiscal year 2018 Defense Appropriations Act. Recognizing the efficacy of the CDMRP, the Committee commended DoD "for ensuring that projects funded through the various peer-reviewed cancer research programs maintain a focus on issues of significance to military populations and the warfighter." In addition, the Committee encouraged greater collaborative research between DoD and non-military research institutions, which "provide a valuable recruitment and retention incentive for military medical and research personnel."

While the House has remained steadfast in its commitment to the CDMRP, the FY2018 Senate National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) included four provisions that would weaken the CDMRP, jeopardizing healthcare for warfighters, veterans, and their families both now and in the future. As a result, it is our formal request that Sections 733, 891, 892, and 893 of the FY2018 Senate NDAA be excluded from any final FY2018 NDAA Conference Report and/or legislation. It is important to note that not one of these provisions was included as part of the House-passed FY2018 NDAA.

If enacted into law, the aforementioned sections would impose such unrealistic burdens that CDMRP efforts would grind to a halt. Medical research to improve the lives of military families and military retirees would be eliminated; critical training programs for military medical staff would be restricted; and proven and successful collaborative research and grant initiatives would be disregarded.

In light of the strong, bipartisan support shown for the CDMRP in the U.S. House of Representatives, we respectfully request that the NDAA Conference Committee reject Sections 733, 891, 892, and 893 of the Fiscal Year 2018 Senate NDAA bill. In doing so, we can work together to strengthen and improve medical research and the quality of life for our brave men and women in uniform.

We appreciate your prompt and urgent consideration of our request.

Sincerely,


RYAN A. COSTELLO
Member of Congress


PETER T. KING
Member of Congress


DAVE LOEBSACK
Member of Congress


SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



Rep. Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



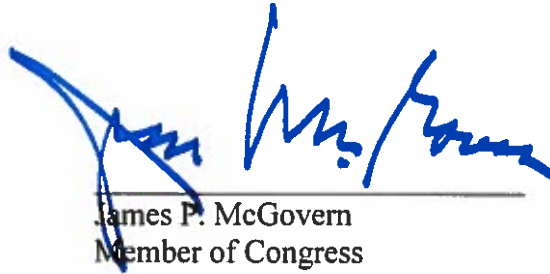
Jose E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress




Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress




Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress


Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress


David Young
Member of Congress


Ted Lieu
Member of Congress


Leonard Lance
Member of Congress


Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress


Grace Meng
Member of Congress


Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress


Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress


Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

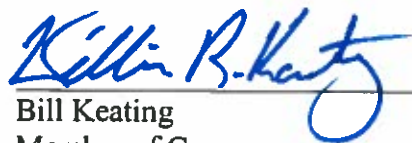

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



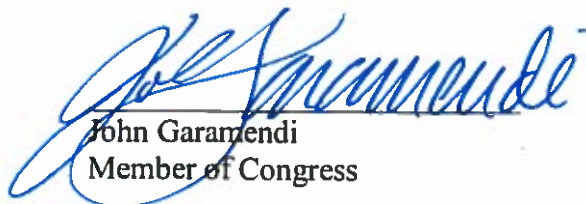
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Bill Keating
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



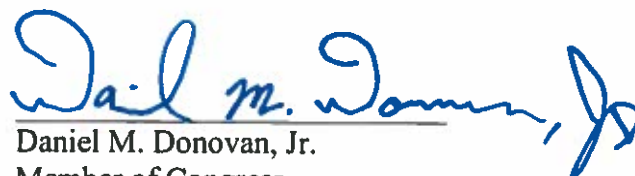
Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
Member of Congress



John K. Delaney
Member of Congress



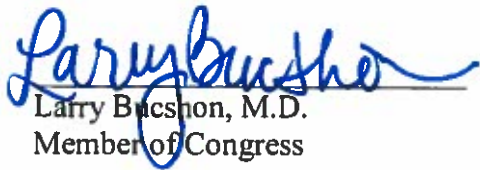
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



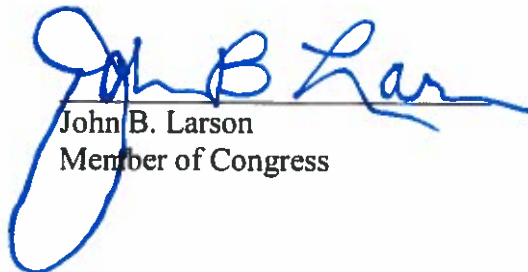
Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



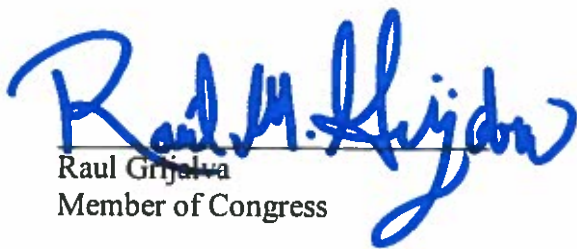
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress



Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress



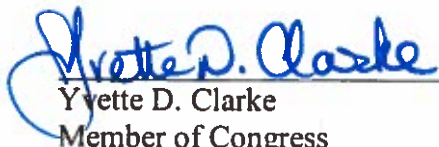
Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Bobby Rush
Member of Congress


Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress


Jacky Rosen
Member of Congress


Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress


Terri Sewell
Member of Congress

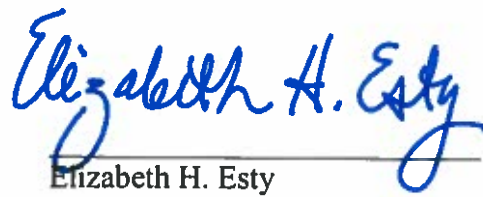

Peter Welch
Member of Congress


Bruce Poliquin
Member of Congress


Lou Barletta
Member of Congress


Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress


Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress


Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

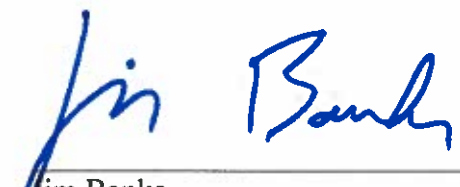

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress


Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress


Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Eliot Engel
Member of Congress


Jim Banks
Member of Congress

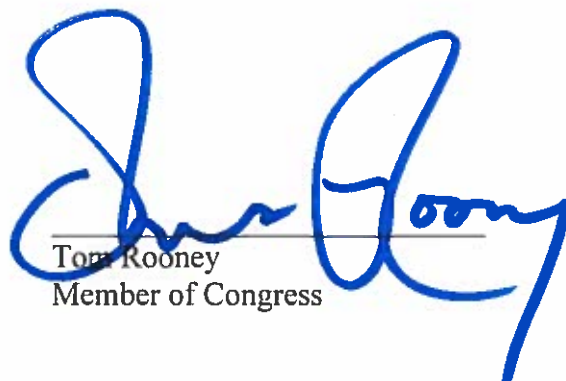

Rep Anthony Brown
Member of Congress


Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress


Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress


Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress


Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress


Tom Rooney
Member of Congress


Ruben J. Kihuen
Member of Congress


Darren Soto
Member of Congress

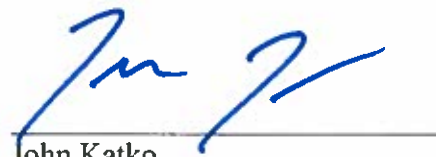

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

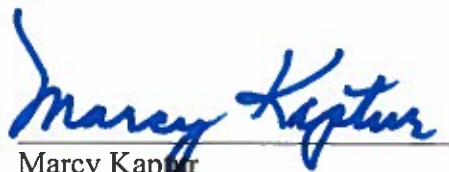

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress


Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress

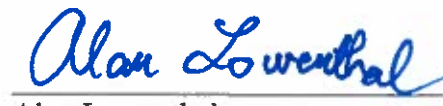

Mark E. Amodei
Member of Congress


John Katko
Member of Congress


Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress


Filemon Vela
Member of Congress


David G. Valadao
Member of Congress

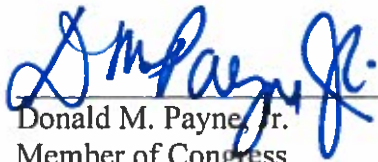

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



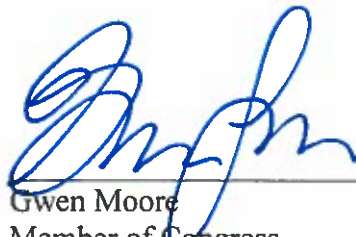
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



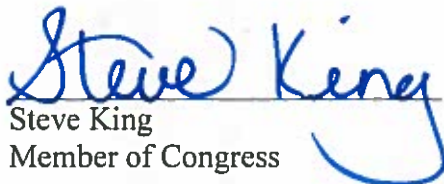
Jim Renacci
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Rod Blum
Member of Congress



David E. Price
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress




Tim Wale
Member of Congress



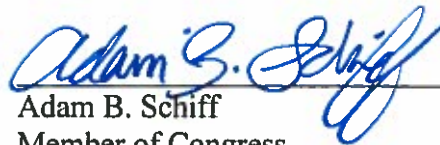
Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



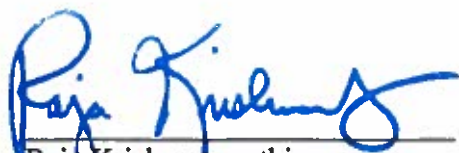
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



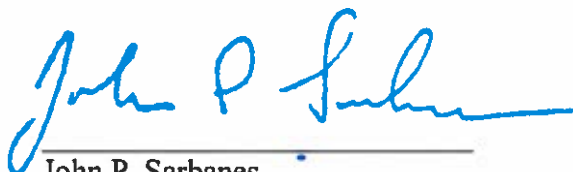
Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

Beto O'Rourke.

Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress

L.P. Duffy

Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Val B. Demings

Val Butler Demings
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Barbara Comstock

Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

Gregg Harper

Gregg Harper
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



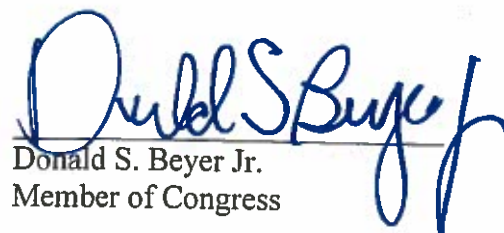
Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress




Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress




Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



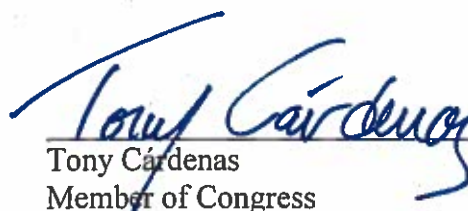
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



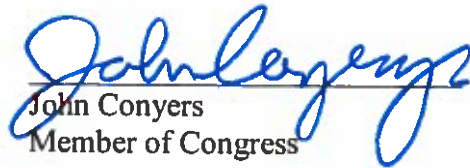
David B. McKinley
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



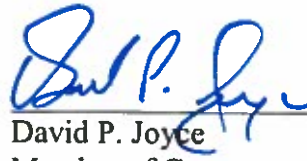
Tom Marino
Member of Congress



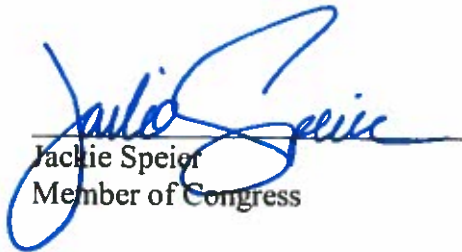
John Conyers
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



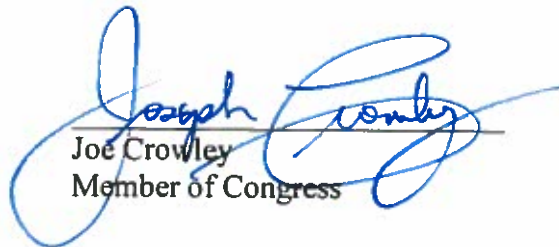
Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



Joe Crowley
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Alma Adams
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



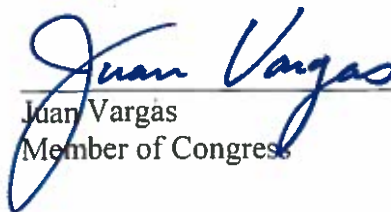
Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



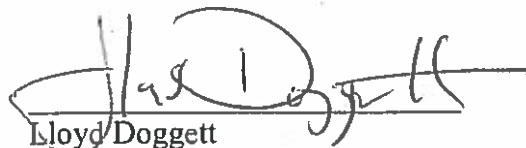
Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress




Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



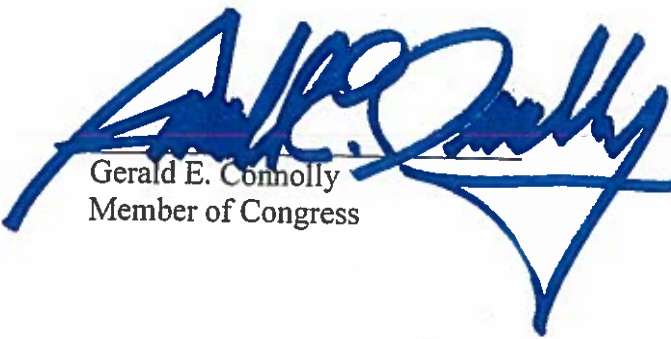
Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress




Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey
Member of Congress




Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress




Lamar Smith
Member of Congress




Mike Bost
Member of Congress




Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress




Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



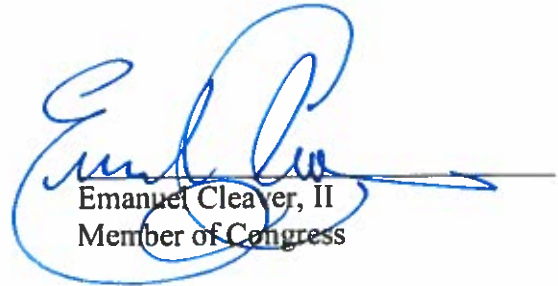
Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Rob Khanna
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Keith Rothfus
Member of Congress